THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Financial concessions are already being extended to Indian Public/Private Sector engineering and allied industries under projects funded by World Bank and certain multilateral/bilateral aid extending agencies involving International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures. Extension of similar concession in all cases where globally and completitive tenders are invited for projects/supplies in India is under the consideration of the Government.

Order relating to recruitment of labour in mines in Bihar under MMTC

922. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:
SHRI S. W. DHABE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any executive order operative in mines being run by MMTC in Bihar to the effect that the percentage of new recruits/old employees shall be to the order of 80:20 between the residents of Orissa and Bihar which was previously of 50:50 ratio; and

(b) if so, the rationale behind such an order and whether Government will reconsider their decision so that it is brought to the previous level?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) and (b) MMTC does not run any mines in Bihar. However, MMTC has an office at Barbil (District, Keonjhar) in Orissa State for procurement of Iron ore and manganese ore from the State of Orissa and Bihar. About 80 per cent of iron ore and the entire quantum of manganese ore is procured from mines located in Orissa and 20 per cent of iron ore is procured from the mines located in Bihar. Ratio of recruitment of employees to the above-mentioned office is 80 per cent from Orissa and 20 per cent from Bihar. The position is, however, being reviewed.

Purchase of processed mica by MITCO

923. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:
SHRI S. W. DHABE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the Mica Trading Corporation is buying processed mica from petty dealers;

(b) whether Government have received a joint charter of demands from different organisations of mica dealers; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to boost mica exports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b Yes, Sir.

(c) Following steps have been taken to boost mica exports:

(1) Exports duty on Bridge Mica was abolished in 1985-86;

(2) MITCO is setting up a number of industrial projects for exporting value added products of mica;

(3) A working Group has been appointed by the Ministry of Commerce to suggest measures to promote export of value added mica products.

Setting up of a free port-cum-resort in Andamans

924. SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose set up a free port-cum-resort in the Andamans;